



# G.A.R.D



## Goa Association Of Resident Doctors

### Goa Medical College and Hospital

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Press note  
12/05/2020

In the current scenario, where one of our fellow colleagues has fallen prey to a controversy surrounding the death of late Shri Jeetendra Deshpabhu on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020, it is imperative on part of Goa Association of Resident Doctors (GARD) to bring to light the actual sequence of events on the said day.

Following are the few summarized clarifications in relation to this event-

1. Patient was referred to GMC with history of cough, fever and breathlessness (Severe acute respiratory illness) from a private hospital. Patient was taken to isolation ward no.113 according to our institutional standard operating procedure (SOP) during the current pandemic. Admission to ward was considered so that the patient could be started on urgent life saving treatment, arrangements for which were in place. However, surprisingly at this time, the patient's accompanying relative refused admission in the said ward, raising serious medical concerns. The patient was then shifted to GMC casualty, the reasons for which are under enquiry.
2. The patient's condition worsened on the way to casualty with dropping oxygen saturation. The need at this moment was urgent resuscitation and intubation for stabilization and not CT scan. Also, the previous chest X-ray with which patient was referred already showed bilateral pneumonia.
3. The resident doctors in GMC work at a stretch for 33 hours or sometimes even 48 hours or more and it is only logical that they go in turns for meals. The scans are run by technicians and reported by residents. The junior resident doctors of Radiology were available throughout this time in their duty room and were not informed about the case personally or telephonically. Also the said senior resident doctor reached the scan room within 10 minutes of intimation and not 35 minutes, as is being alleged.
4. The patient was promptly intubated and connected to a ventilator by a resident doctor of Anesthesia in isolation ward no.113, after shifting the patient back from casualty.

These facts highlight that the hardworking frontline resident doctors are being wrongly portrayed in general public. It is our responsibility to keep everyone informed of the events so that the trust in medical fraternity can be restored.

We firmly stand in solidarity with our colleague and ask for "revocation of suspension" until the enquiry is complete. We request for an impartial, timely and transparent enquiry be conducted in the sequence of events on 21<sup>st</sup> April right from patient's arrival to GMC and not just delay in the CT scan, as is being repeatedly alleged.

On Behalf of GARD.

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